



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20591

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 9, 1970

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Honorable John H. Shaffer  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Shaffer:

A recent tire explosion in flight resulting in serious injury to several passengers, as well as numerous incidents of aircraft tire failures within the past several years, has become a matter of concern to the Board. Most of the failures involved retreaded tires in use by both domestic and foreign air carriers.

The Board's concern in this matter is not primarily with the direct effect of tire failures such as aircraft controllability during ground roll, but rather the often unpredictable secondary effects such as high velocity impact of tire fragments upon aircraft structure, fluid lines, control systems, and ingestion of such fragments into turbine engines rotating at maximum speeds.

The Board concurs in the industry concept that a properly retreaded tire is capable of performing as well or even better than a new tire. In view of the recent failures experienced throughout the industry, it is our opinion that an improvement in reliability could be effected by strict adherence to manufacturers' quality and performance standards by facilities engaged in the retreading of aircraft tires.

With this objective in mind, the Board recommends:

- (1) A review of Repair Station Specifications of all facilities engaged in the retreading of aircraft tires.

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- (2) The updating of such specifications where such action is indicated and necessary to meet the current performance requirements for high-speed aircraft tires.

Members of our Bureau of Aviation Safety Staff have discussed this matter with members of your Flight Standards Staff and will be available for further exchange of technical information if desired.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Reed", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John H. Reed  
Chairman